

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 02956 241616Z  
ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PA-01 SS-15 AGRE-00  
CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00  
USIA-06 OES-07 OMB-01 L-03 /074 W  
-----019354 250355Z /15

R 241530Z FEB 78  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6408  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC  
DEA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 02956

WHITEHOUSE FOR BOURNE  
DEA FOR BENSINGER  
FROM: MFALCO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: SNAR, TY, UN  
SUBJECT: TURKISH REACTION TO DEA STATEMENTS

1. CITING INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT,  
TURKISH COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (CND) DELEGATE KAYA  
TOPERI MADE A FORMAL PROTEST TO ME AS U.S. CND REP REGARD-  
ING THE REMARKS OF DEA ADMINISTRATOR PETER BENSINGER BE-  
FORE THE COMMISSION ON FEBRUARY 14, 1978. ON FEBRUARY 23  
TOPERI PRESENTED ME WITH A COPY OF A FEBRUARY 14 UPI RE-  
LEASE REPORTING BENSINGER'S COMMENTS ABOUT TURKISH NATION-  
ALS INVOLVED IN HEROIN TRAFFICKING. TOPERI SAID THAT UPON  
READING THE UPI REPORT PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT HAD  
INSTRUCTED HIM TO ASK THAT HIS GOVERNMENT BE PROVIDED  
WITH THE EVIDENCE ON WHICH BENSINGER BASED HIS STATEMENTS  
LINKING AN IMPORTANT TURKISH NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING RING  
TO AMERICAN ORGANIZED CRIME FIGURES. ACCORDING TO  
TOPERI, ECEVIT HAD PERSONALLY ORDERED THAT STRONG  
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 02956 241616Z

DEMARCHE ON THE DEA ISSUE BE MADE TO THE U.S. AMBASSADOR  
IN ANKARA.

2. POINTING TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S SERIOUSNESS ABOUT SUP-  
PRESSING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING BY TURKS OR ANYONE ELSE,  
TOPERI OBSERVED THAT INSTEAD OF MALIGNING TURKEY,  
DEA SHOULD COOPERATE WITH AND SUPPORT TURKISH EFFORTS.

IF DEA HAS EVIDENCE ON WHICH TO BASE BENSINGER'S STATEMENTS, TOPERI CONTINUED, IT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH GOT OFFICIALS FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION, RATHER THAN BE USED FOR SENSATIONAL PUBLICITY.

3. THE TURKISH DELEGATE SAID THAT HIS NEW GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY COMMITTED TO SUPPRESSING ILLICIT TRAFFIC WHILE AT THE SAME TIME REDUCING LICIT STRAW PRODUCTION TO HELP BALANCE WORLD SUPPLY AND DEMAND. TOPERI ADDED THAT AFTER YEARS OF WORKING TO CLEAR ITS INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION OF THE STIGMA OF THE "FRENCH CONNECTION," TURKEY DOES NOT WANT TO SEE ITS NAME SOILED BY WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS FROM DEA OR ANYONE ELSE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD APPRECIATE DEA ADMINISTRATOR BENSINGER CALLING UPON AMBASSADOR ESENBEL IN WASHINGTON, AND PROVIDING HIM WITH INFORMATION ON WHICH HE BASED THE STATEMENT IN QUESTION. I WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE HAVING THAT INFORMATION FOR TRANSMISSION TO TOPERI UPON MY RETURN TO WASHINGTON. VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DRUG CONTROL, DRUG TRAFFIC, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978GENEVA02956  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780087-0376  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**SAS ID:** 3491068  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TURKISH REACTION TO DEA STATEMENTS  
**TAGS:** SNAR, TU, UN  
**To:** STATE ANKARA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014